

AUTUMN 2024

THE HACKNEY ANARCHIST

ISSUE 4

**POTS AND PANS
AND OTHER USEFUL THINGS**



CLICK CLICK

We are now approaching a year since the latest intensification of the Palestinian genocide. The situation shows all the signs of a death knell—the calculated extermination of a nation. The military operation is thinly veiled as statehood; in reality it serves as a proxy for colonial and imperial interests in the Middle East. People have marched nearly every week in an attempt to force some recognition, some change in state policy, some action on their behalf. In a desperate act to draw attention to the normalized violence, Aaron Bushnell self-immolated.

Similarly, people have marched in solidarity with the Congolese, nearly 7 million of whom have been displaced by the decades-long conflict that began after independence from Belgium in 1962. This conflict, primarily between Hutu and Tutsi groups, has re-escalated since 2022 and has largely been ignored by Western media.

More recently, the undercurrent of right-wing violence in the UK has surged, fueled by decades of neoliberal, individualist rhetoric, austerity measures, and the relentless demonization of displaced people.

But what has all this amounted to? The state continues to issue arms sales licenses to Israel. Politicians, too concerned with their career prospects and lucrative paychecks, refuse to acknowledge the genocidal nature of this war. The conflict in the Congo, alongside others in places like Sudan, New Caledonia, and Bangladesh, receives scant attention in the press. Across the country, people rallied in the streets when fascists felt emboldened enough to attempt to replicate their early August provocations, only to be in many cases vastly outnumbered. Yet, for many, that is the extent of their anti-fascism—content to believe that fascism can be stamped out as quickly as it “spontaneously” arose, and content to ignore the fact that it persists beneath the surface, necessitating constant vigilance.

When placards at state-sanctioned protests are being criminalized, it is time to be prepared to fight back against police violence. When the alienation of the populace is so pronounced that fascist ideals find easy footholds, it is time to act—bridging gaps in your community, creating forums for discussion and agitation, and providing a counter-narrative to the fascist ideology that is slowly being drip-fed to the public. Never has there been a more critical moment to examine the role of action in our anarchist practice. Whether it's distributing food locally to build a sense of community, planning for or confronting police violence at marches, or agitating in the workplace—Hackney Anarchists hope that the content of this zine serves as a jumping-off point. Beyond that, we hope it provokes a deeper examination of what our organising is for, if not for tangible actions that make a material difference.



Artist: Gertrude

Most people in our society do not have a great deal of power over our own lives. It is likely that most readers of this will either work for a business or a government organisation, and/or will be dependent on welfare or charity in order to survive. Either way, our survival will be based on our ability to do what those above us demand, and we have to shape our lives around those demands. This leads to people looking to the rich and powerful for solutions to social problems; this can be actively voting for a politician or asking a boss for something, or it can be passively waiting for an entrepreneur or the CEO of an established business or charity to fulfil an as-of-yet unmet need.

DIRE

However, this method of "change" does not reliably work. The very nature of power is that it includes the power to abuse or ignore those subject to it. Capitalists and politicians pursue their own ends, and only have an incentive to help us when doing so serves their own power. We may occasionally be useful as a well maintained tool to those above us, but they will never look after us as human beings deserving of having our desires met on our own terms. If our suffering serves their interest, then they will ensure we suffer.

The alternative to this is direct action and solidarity. We take direct action when we stop waiting for someone else to save us, and we start to solve the problems we face directly. We show solidarity with one another when we start to organise and form alliances to fight for each others' desires. Instead of simply asking our boss for a raise, we can organise with our co-workers to go on strike to raise everyone's wages. Instead of waiting for the state or a charity to feed the homeless, we can organise to do so ourselves within our communities on the understanding that the structures we build will be there to support us should we find ourselves on the street. Instead of voting for a political party that promises to stop deportations, we can go out into the streets and blockade home office snatch vans, in the knowledge that building the capacity to resist the state protects everyone.

In building groups based on solidarity and direct action, we must be careful that they actively empower those within them, instead of recreating the structures of passivity and disempowerment that characterise much of our current society. They must be built around free association and mutual agreement in which every member gets a real say in how a group is run and no one is used as a tool for the purposes of an unaccountable leadership. Many previous movements founded on direct action and solidarity have failed because they allowed such a leadership to develop, and so ended up recreating the problems they set out to solve.

CTACTION

Such an approach will lead to confrontation with those in power. Often their power is built on structures that cause the problems we would want to solve; the rich profit from under-paying and over-working their workers, politicians are empowered by the submission of their subjects, and the general structure of our society relies on keeping us passive, ignorant, and isolated, regardless of how much harm this causes. The so called "powerless" of society, if we all acted together, could take over the economy and run our own communities without politicians, capitalists, or their hired goons.



Artist: Gertrude

OUR RULERS ARE NOT OUR SAVIOURS, THEY ARE OUR
OPPRESSORS AND EXPLOITERS. IF THOSE AT THE
BOTTOM OF SOCIETY WANT REAL CHANGE WE NEED
TO RELY TO OURSELVES AND EACH OTHER, NOT THOSE
ABOVE US.

GUIDE TO PUBLIC ORDER



Public Order Act 1986

CHAPTER 64

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

Section

1. Riot.
2. Violent disorder.
3. Affray.
4. Fear or provocation of violence.

7. Offences abolished.
10. Construction of other instruments.

PART II

SITUATIONS

12. Imposing conditions on public assemblies.
13. Delegation.
16. Interpretation.

PART III

RACIAL HATRED

This article was originally published as part of a larger Demonstrations Guide on Libcom.org in 2006 although it remains surprisingly relevant - there's a whole other article to be written about the stagnation of policing/police tactics in the UK as a result of ex-colonial subjects achieving independence (the police no longer have aggrieved peoples to practise on, away from the public eye) and the general British apathy¹ in the face of ever worsening living standards (the police don't get to practise much at home either) - as such, we've reprinted it here, as it originally appeared, to share any learnings that can be gleaned.

This article is focussed on the UK, but some points are universal.

Bear in mind that the police are probably much better equipped and trained for close combat than you or I. They have been psyching themselves up for hours, are likely to have plenty of reserves standing by and usually feel confident with the law behind them. Beating the police is about outwitting them, not necessarily hitting them over the head.

THE AIMS AND METHODS OF THE STATE

British Law has traditionally been concerned with keeping the peace and not necessarily preventing or solving crime.

The roots of such public order policing can be traced back to the common law offences introduced to control the havoc caused by mercenaries returning from the Hundred Years War. These laws evolved into the 1967 Riot Act, which established in law the concept of arresting anyone present at a riot, regardless of whether they are guilty of violent acts. The Riot Act no longer exists, replaced by the Public Order Act in 1986. The reality of the situation is that the police act as if it did.

The Public Order Manual of Tactical Operations and Related Matters provides the police with clear instructions for dealing with situations where public order is threatened. This manual has never been made public, has no legal standing and was never discussed by Parliament. It basically gives the police guidance in the use of pre-emptive acts of violence, to achieve the following:

1. To break the crowd up into manageable portions, keep them moving then eventually disperse them.
2. To provoke violence as a way of justifying their actions and flushing out any ringleaders.
3. To contain the crowd and stop the trouble spreading.
4. To intimidate and break the spirit of the crowd.
5. To gather evidence for later.

The manual contains details of tactics which include the use of snatch squads, baton charges and the use of horses to disperse and intimidate large crowds. Make no mistake - the cops will be prepared to do whatever it takes to ensure that our actions and protests are ineffective.

So how do we make sure our actions are effective?

- Don't be tempted to stand around and fight – get to where you can cause disruption without the police around.
- Keep moving, as a group and individually. Fill gaps. Never stand still – chaos puts the police off.
- Nip police attempts to form lines or divide the crowd in the bud.
- Don't be intimidated.
- Do everything in small teams, prepare in advance.*
- Think defensively. Protect each other and escape routes.
- Always face outwards, ie. away from us and towards them.
- Link arms as often as possible, form barriers, use your body.
- Move quickly and calmly, never giving the police time to react.

PREPARATIONS

Staying out of jail and hospital need not be hard work. Most people caught up in riots manage it. But with a bit of forethought you can turn surviving a public order situation into a living order situation!

THE AIMS OF THE PROTESTORS

No one really 'wins' at the end of the day, but that doesn't matter. What matters is that you are unhurt, still free and some egg is still stuck to the face of your original target after the police have been and gone.

With all that in mind, we suggest you stick to these three basic aims when you find yourself in a riot:

1. Get you and your mates away safely, rather than fighting.
2. Find a place to cause embarrassment and economic damage to your real target, rather than fighting.
3. Help others in trouble by administering first aid and de-arresting, rather than fighting.

STICKING TOGETHER

Always try to form an affinity group before setting out and at least have a buddy system whereby everybody has one person to look out for, and to act with, when a situation arises.

Affinity groups are just a handful of people who work together as a unit, as and when circumstances arise. They can meet beforehand to discuss ideas and possible reactions, practice or role play scenarios. The more your group meets, the quicker your reaction times will get and your effectiveness will improve. Affinity groups can often act without the need for internal discussion, they naturally develop their own shorthand communications and can divide up skills and equipment amongst each other. Water, D-locks, paint, first aid, food, banners and spare clothes is a lot for one person to carry, but divided up between five people it's nothing.

Do pay attention to what you're going to wear in advance. Consider precautions that are discrete, adaptable, easy to apply and discard. Thinking about these threats in advance will help:

1) Surveillance

Masking makes it difficult to identify individuals in a crowd and if everyone masks up no one will stand out. The cut off sleeve of a long sleeved t-shirt makes a good mask. Wear it casually around your neck. If you wear glasses use a cut off section of a stocking (hold-ups work best as they have thick elastic) instead of a t-shirt, this prevents glasses steaming up. You can use it as a hair-tie, if you're a hippy type, until you need it.

A hooded top will cover most of your face and a baseball cap on its own provides good protection from most static cameras, which are usually mounted high up. Sunglasses

give good protection against harmful rays including UV and CCTV. Worth bearing in mind is that the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 made an Amendment to Section 60 of The Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994. It gives any uniformed police officer the power to insist on the removal of any item of clothing a person is wearing or may wear for the purpose of concealment of identity. The item can be seized and retained.

2) Truncheon blows

A placard makes a good temporary shield and light strips of plastic under your clothing or on the forearm could offer some protection. Unless you are intending to try and break police lines, the best protective clothing is probably a good pair of running shoes. More recently, the WOMBLES - inspired by Italy's Ya Basta group - have taken a more positive stance to protection by wearing thick layers of padding under their clothes, together with helmets. This enables them to keep police lines at bay, protecting themselves and the crowd behind them from truncheon blows. They are able to push through police lines and free demonstrators trapped by the use of a Section 60 (see later).

3) CS Spray

The best authorities suggest a solution of camden tablets (used to clean home brewing equipment), some say use lots of water, but its effectiveness is unclear. Whatever you do don't rub it in or take a hot shower. If in doubt get clear and let the wind blow it away from your skin. This will take 20 minutes.

4) Baton charges

If you want to take a banner, use long strips of plastic haulage tarps rather than a sheet. This can be used as a moveable barrier to stop charging police or for you to advance behind. Wrap the ends in on themselves so the police can't easily grab it. Hide behind and hold on tight.

DEFENDING

If you aren't doing anything else you should always be defending.

Whether that means securing a building, strengthening your position on the street, barricading (see later) or protecting others. Here are some ideas:

1. Keep looking outwards. For example, if someone is being given first aid, stand and face away from them.

2. Form cordons as much as possible. Anything the police want, including buildings and especially sound systems needs a strong outwardly facing cordon. Things may be quiet and you feel like a prick linking arms or holding hands with complete strangers, but do it. Repeat the mantra 'It's not a hippy peacenik thang, it's a rock hard revolutionary thang.' Take a leaf out of the police manual: stand like you're about to do 'the conga' and stick your right hand down the back of the trousers of the person in front, repeat along the line, asking permission first. It's virtually unbreakable.

3. Get into the habit of dancing with your back towards the sound system.

4. Someone needs to watch the police from a good vantage point, so that their next move can be pre-empted. On top of the sounds van is not a good place; no one can hear when you shout "Here come the dog handlers! Fucking run!" and any gestures you do will be interpreted as dancing...

5. Sitting down is good for dissuading the police from charging, but you should only do it in large numbers and the crowd needs to feel confident. We advise you to sit down as soon as the shout goes up, hesitating is not good, you can assess the situation once you're down there. Hopefully others will do the same. If it still looks viable five seconds later, link arms with your neighbours. There are times when sitting down is not really recommended – horses are maybe too unpredictable but the authors have never seen horses charge into a seated crowd, the way they do into a standing crowd. It's a good way to avoid the crowd getting split up. Some particularly violent gangs of police just aren't worth it either. Only experience will teach you when to sit down.

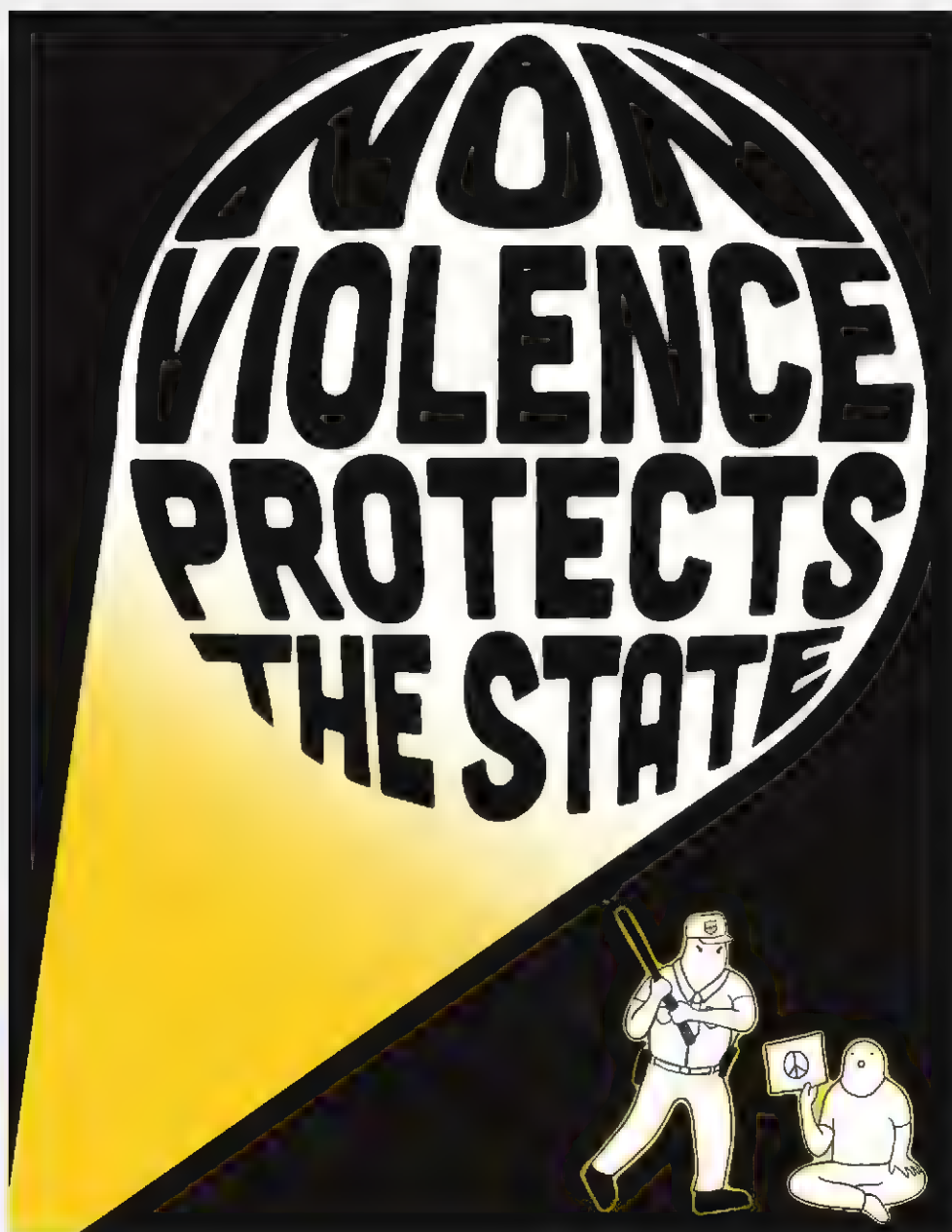
6. Barricades can be more hassle than they are worth. A solid impassable barricade can reduce your own options when you need to run. Bear in mind that anything you build now you are likely to get dragged over later - leave out the barbed wire. The best barricades are random matter strewn all over the place – horses can't easily charge over them, police find it hard to hold a line in among them, but individuals can easily pick their way through. If you know police are advancing from only one direction and you have clear escape routes behind, barricades can be sensible. The tactics the cops developed during the 1980's riots was to drive the van into crowds with TSG [Tactical Support Group] in the back, jump out and arrest everyone they caught. Barricades are an effective way of stopping this.

7. The best form of defence of all is CHAOS! A complicated hierarchy needs orders to act on and those orders come from individuals making informed decisions. If the situation changes constantly they simply cannot keep up. Keep moving all the time, weave in and out of the crowd. Change your appearance. Open up new directions and possibilities, be unpredictable. If you find yourself stood still and passive for more than a minute then you've stopped acting defensively.

Stop this divisive narrative, they say, seeking to deny the deep and unreconcilable conflict that exists in this borough. Promoting 'togetherness' Caroline Woodley, our new mayor, basically wants us to ignore the greedy exploitative bastards who are driving ordinary folks out of Hackney and concentrate on making it all nicer for the incoming young white rich folks. They basically just want us to shut up and leave quietly!

It doesn't have to be this way. These demographic changes aren't inevitable. They are directly caused by exploitative property companies, greedy landlords, unscrupulous estate agents and a rampant capitalist ideology that basically encourages those with money to rip off the rest of us for as much as they can. There is a bitter class war going on in this borough and we won't let them cover this up with their platitudes. Fuck the rich! Fuck the landlords! Why should we all have to move out of Hackney to make way for those who can afford to live here? Don't accuse us of being divisive!

Artist: Pyrophite Distro



Dear JK Rowling,

You're a witch

Another gender critical
Who's so hypocritical

Like Voldy you have no soul
Just another keyboard warrior troll
It's not just women who menstruate
In reality you just want to spread hate

You're a TERF
With no self-worth
Just another cisgender
Scared of a gender-bender

Trans women are women
Trans men are men
And non-binary is valid
Whilst your views are malice

Your books used to inspire
~~Now they're expired~~
A stocking filler full of trash
Merry fucking terfmas

Your views are make-believe
Is that why you tweet to deceive?
Your movie stars are our allies
Calling out your bigotry so it shouldn't be a surprise

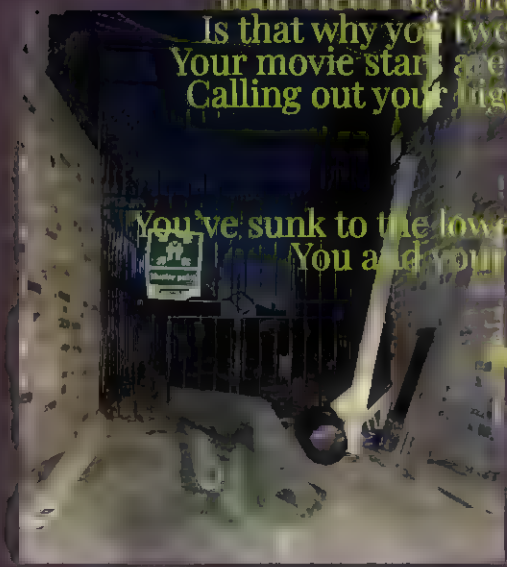
You try to erase our history
But it lives on in our memory
You've sunk to the lowest of the low, a holocaust denier
You and your retched views should retire

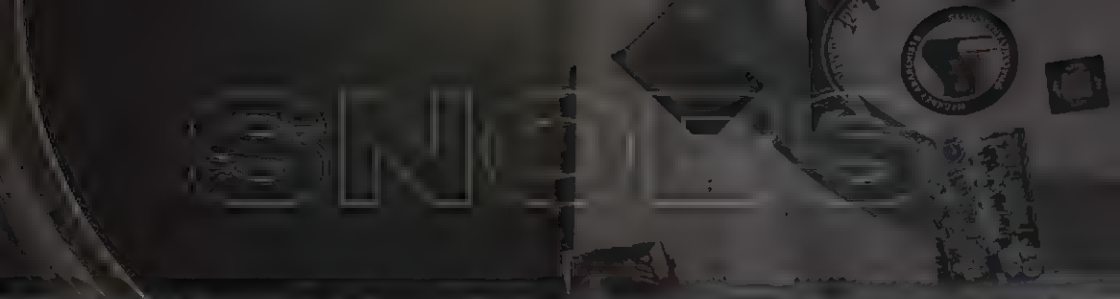
JK Rowling
Just stop groaning

Another fucking fascist ally,

Bye-bye.

Mx. Adam Khan





Snobs and bosses are two sides of the same shiny gold coin. The boss tells you to work faster, harder with a whip in his hand. The snob acts like you deserve it holding a weaponized glass of overpriced wine. In our society being "working class" is partly about being underpaid, but it's also about not being respected by people and institutions in society. Class is about money, but also about culture and how rich people mobilize their values to justify treating the rest of us like dirt in the first place.

A lot of plumbers make more money than white collar data entry clerks, yet the clerk considers himself "classy" compared to the plumber. The plumber is imagined to work with his hands (dirty). The clerk is imagined to work with his head (clean). In fact, the plumber's job involves way more skill than data entry, and the typing clerk works with his hands as much as the construction worker, yet the clerk is imagined to be "smarter" than the plumber. Why should this be?

To the middle-class mind, a plumber works near actual "shit" so he must be shit, while smart guys in smart suits act like they don't even have assholes to shit with. This is no coincidence. From Plato's time to the modern capitalist division of labour, the professional class casts itself as "high" and "mind-driven" in contrast to the "low" and "body-driven" underclass. It's partly that working class people are truly prevented from doing creative, intellectual work because we are forced to clean up rich people's shit all the time, but it's partly that we are already doing creative, intellectual work and aren't recognized for it. The architect thinks he designed the building, but of course the builders are the real artists who fix mistakes in architects' plans.

The rich imagine workers to be defined by an excessive enjoyment of bodily pleasures. This isn't true (the rich are the ones enjoying fancy snacks and massages all day!) but it is a cherished fantasy of theirs: Professional middle class people like to pretend that they don't even have any bodily functions. Orgasms, eating, sweating, and shitting are impolite, dirty things that they project onto others in a fit of collective neurosis. What they repress in their own deluded imagination of themselves ("My shit doesn't stink"), they paint onto others. The rich like to tell themselves that the working class only needs to work so much because we eat too much, or drink too much, or smoke too much, or have too much sex when if only we practiced "delayed gratification" we could be bosses and have our very own workers just like them. But of course, as always, it is the ruling class, not us, that is completely full of shit.



Illustration: Byron Maher (IG: byron__maher) | Design: Sancho R. Somalo
Concept: Byron Maher and Sancho R. Somalo



We won't let them destroy everything. Let's build a better world together.

This is the official poster of the
1st of May of CNT Spain, 2024

This image, a poster
from Pere Catal Pic,
was the baseline
reference. The
espadrilles, a symbol
of the working class,
become trainers
widely worn in
neighbourhoods
and towns.



Another reference was this poster
from the CNT (National Labour
Confederation). Often they used
objects coloured in red and black.

Similar to this
poster, big
letters were
used, which
are often used
to generate
strength and
presence.



The snake is a recurring
symbol for fascism. With
a yellow background, the
snake is also a symbol of
anarcocapitalism.

RESISTANCE AT WORK

In the face of declining wages and rising costs of living, the laws around going on strike and other forms of workplace action have gotten tighter and tighter. It is harder than ever to launch an official strike even when unions are willing to support us. However, even when the law is against us and our unions refuse to fight, there are things we can do to put pressure on our bosses and win higher wages and better treatment.

The power of a strike does not come from legal recognition or from the authorisation of a union bureaucracy. It comes from the fact that the workplace doesn't run without the cooperation of workers, and that we can work together to use that fact to fight for better conditions. We can organise that power regardless of what the government, our bosses, or even our own unions have to say on the matter.

The first way to do this is through unofficial strikes. The wildcat strike is a traditional strike – refusing to work until demands are met – done without union approval. A variant of this is the sick in, in which workers take days off sick at the same time instead of declaring a formal strike. Another option is the overtime strike, in which everyone refuses to work any more than their basic hours.

Essay: Member of the Solidarity Federation.

SolFed carries out anarchist workplace organising, industrial action and agitation.

These tactics have worked in the past, but they can be high risk/high reward actions, putting management in a position where they feel they must retaliate, and losing wages for the duration of the strike. Another way in which we can take action, but with less risk, and perhaps still get paid, is industrial action on the job. This includes actions such as the sit in, where workers go to work, but refuse to actually work until an issue is resolved, or the slow down, where workers still work, but at a reduced pace. Or, as one worker put it: "they pretend to pay us, so we pretend to work."

Many workplaces only run efficiently because workers ignore the formal rules we are supposed to follow. A work to rule action is when we choose to follow those rules regardless of how badly the mess up the business. Another such action is the good work strike, in which we improve the quality of service at the expense of our bosses: bus drivers letting people ride for free, chefs piling up the servings, shop staff forgetting to charge for items and so on.

We can also look outside the workplace for support. Ask friends or family members to hand out flyers to customers to persuade them to shop elsewhere until demands are met. Tell customers directly about shady labour practices and encourage them to complain about them.

Lastly, in many situations management either attempt to implement policies that make our lives worse, or refuse to fix problems. In this situation we can refuse to comply, or fix problems on our own without management's consent. This can be a collective refusal to stop working from home, refusing to engage in dangerous work practices, or removing dangerous machinery from our work spaces when the boss refuses to do so. These are examples of dual power, or building organisation to control our workplaces ourselves.

None of the above examples are without risks, although neither is formal action through a recognised union; bosses often get away with breaking the law and victimising union members. Often safer and less radical tactics will have to be backed up with a willingness to use more radical action should management decide to escalate; if they attempt to make an example of someone over a slow down, that person needs to be defended with a full wildcat strike.

Likewise, not all of the examples above will work in every workplace, and you will know best what tactics will work in your own situation. However, the key to all of them is talking to your workmates and building solidarity between them so that you can take action together, and identifying ways you can hurt your employer while exposing yourself to the least risk of reprisal. Ultimately, what business owners care about is money, and when our bosses are intent on cutting our pay, worsening our conditions, or making us redundant, the only thing that can stop them is collective action that makes it clear that doing so will cost them dearly.

INTRO

A Foodshare is an event or organisation where food is shared for free. Foodshares are necessary in today's society because the system we live under does not guarantee basic wellbeing for everyone, so we must support one another.

This how-to is based on the Blackbird Community Project's weekly foodshare (Winter 2022). The cook in the Blackbird Centre Housing Co-operative (24 The Michener Avenue, NN14 6D) where people come for free food every Sunday 3pm-7pm. The first year of the BCP foodshare has seen it develop into a collaboration between friends and neighbours, who are regular and passing it on. It's a place to come to eat and socialise for free.



Hackney Anarchists has recently started an Anarchist Breakfast Club to hand out free food to whoever might need it, or just wants it. Mutual Aid and cooperation are a cornerstone of our politics; we seek to lessen the burden of a profoundly unfair system and build community. **Nobody should be unhoused, hungry, or uncared for.**

STEPS TO CREATE A FOODSHARE:

Who & What?

Being able to cook, even just basic foods, is a big advantage. If you don't have a kitchen you can use a gas burner hook-up to a canister. And if you involve other people, you could request donations from professional kitchens or share foods that don't need cooking.

If you need extra resources:

- request support on social media
- advertise on local notice boards
- visit projects with a similar ethos to meet and learn from like-minded people

It is advisable to offer easy-to-cook food, which are easy to clean, locally sourced, and nutritious.

Where?

You could host visitors in a local community centre, and use their kitchen if they have one. If not, you could prepare food at home and distribute it on foot, or from a public stall.

Some foodsharers bring food in pots and hook up a gas burner with a canister to keep it heated, and others bring pre-packed portions in take-away containers. They usually offer free cutlery and paper towels with each meal, and many also give out water and hot drinks. Ideally all materials should be biodegradable/compostable.



HOW TO ORGANISE

Artist: 謝
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How?

Food can be sourced in various ways:

- Commercial surplus, grocers or restaurants etc
- food "rescued" after being wasted (through "skip-diving")
- raising funds to buy foods
- requesting donations from the community

Ask local grocers if you can take foods which are too old to sell; keep it simple!

The more experience you build the easier you will find refusing bad items and making sure everything gets used or shared.

Every foodshare is busy, sometimes you won't find many people; but all experience helps in the future. You also have the option to advertise your foodshare; this can be via social media, word-of-mouth, posters, banners, chalk-boards at your location, word-of-mouth, local media, coordinating directly with producers.

What you will need depends on the kind of foodshare, but consider these essentials:

- biodegradable cutlery (spoon-like forks)
- biodegradable take-away containers
- paper towels
- paper water-cups

- water-carrier / dispenser. Thermos-style insulated carriers keep boiled water hot for hours; perfect for quick hot drinks
- tea-bags & instant coffee
- toiletries
- kitchenware (if indoors: mugs, glasses, plates, cutlery etc.)
- boxes for transporting materials

Try to source from donations, but usually you will have to buy most. You can keep a donation jar for visitors to donate if they can afford it, or seek funding from charitable trusts if necessary. ODP uses the Open Collection of Data (OCOD) for transparency with finances.



For those of us who feel that we do not fit in the latest version of the status quo, there seems to be a variety of state or market-approved solutions suggested for us by the system to explore. The aim is to make us feel like 'taking part', like 'building a mass movement', like 'responding to the emergency': NGOs, charities, vanguard parties and centralised single issue campaign groups. These causes 'make sense' and 'have realistic potential' to 'make actual change'. Only of course for the fact that the road to disappointment is full of realistic political intentions.

A long history of failing social movements has shown us time and time again the harmfulness of top down organising and the crippling effects of forcing unity and urgency, of choosing structure over meaning, over memory and variety. The system that is killing us after all, is made of the exact same ingredients: homogeneity; cohesiveness and power in unity; specialising hierarchies; the goal that justifies the means; normalisation; centralisation; quantification and multiplication.

Some people can never be really satisfied, unless they ask for the 'impossible'. An example is the thriving movements of the feminist, queer and trans people of the last decade, who dared to ask the unthinkable and demand, in the here and now, to put an end to patriarchy and obtain absolute visibility and acceptance. Many of them are active in grass root social conflicts and by doing so they are showing a way: the intersection of struggles for the dismantlement of the status quo. After all, Black people, Arabs, femmes, queer, trans, workers, students, unemployed, immigrants, we are all boiling together in the same pot.

So all we need to do is fight for exactly the opposite values that the mainstream is throwing to our faces: fight for prefiguration and means-goals consistency; for decentralisation and spreading of variety and counter-information; for plurality of methods and co-operation; for solidarity across different movements and causes; for direct action.

To take our struggles to the next level, we need to abandon our comfort zones made out of similarities, and embrace heterogeneity and our own uniqueness.

And if we want to stop repeating the same mistakes, we have to stop negotiating our dreams and start imagining new methods to fight for our causes, while building our memory and sharing valuable lessons from each other's journeys.

The time is always good, the time is always now, to embrace diversity of tactics and fight the new wars that the Leviathan of our times is waging upon us.

**START GAINING BACK OUR CONFIDENCE
AND BUILD UPON COLLECTIVE MEMORY AND
IMAGINATION.**

**ORGANISE DEMOS, WORKSHOPS AND
FESTIVALS.**

**MAKE MEANINGFUL CONNECTIONS AND LEARN
FROM EACH OTHER.**

**BUILD HOPE AND MEMORY, AVOID HAVING TO
REPEAT THE MISTAKES OF THE PAST.**

**SCHEDULE LOCAL AND REGIONAL
GRASSROOTS ASSEMBLIES.**

CULTIVATE NEW CONNECTIONS.

**IMAGINE AND DEVISE NEW WAYS TO HACK THE
MAINSTREAM REALITY IMPOSED ON US.**

**RESIST ALL OPPRESSION, AUTHORITY,
INCARCERATION AND STATE VIOLENCE.**

**LIBERATE SPACES AND GIVE THEM BACK TO
THE PEOPLE.**

INSPIRE AND GET INSPIRED.

EMBRACE YOUR LOVE AND RAGE, AND

DEMAND THE IMPOSSIBLE!



Painting the town red & black.

1. Gather the following:

- Eggs
- Tape
- A safety pin/toothpick
- A small funnel
- Paint
- Cooking oil
- Sand (optional)
- A candle/wax
- Cotton balls/make-up wipes/tissue paper

2. Put a small strip of tape on the top and bottom of your egg (this prevents the shell from blowing out more than we want.)

3. Shake the egg up to break the yolk and thin its consistency.

4. Using the pin, poke a hole in the top and bottom of the egg, where you previously taped. Widen the bottom hole with the toothpick.

5. Over a bowl/the drain, put your lips over the top of the egg and blow. The scrambled yolk and white will come out the bottom.

6. Seal the top with a drop of wax.

7. Put the funnel in the hole on the underside (you might need to widen it further) and pour in your ingredients.

8. Seal the remaining hole with wax. If it has become too wide to seal, stuff it with a small amount of cotton ball/make-up wipe/tissue, then drip wax over the top.

9. Pack carefully (just use the egg box they came in.)

Some notes:

- the paint is there to impair vision.
 - the oil is there to reduce dexterity.
 - the sand is there to ensure that the visual impairment cannot be simply wiped away, it is also likely to clog any mechanisms on equipment.
 - this could also be done with Christmas baubles if you're feeling festive.
 - light bulbs are also an option. You'll need pliers and a screwdriver to open the bulb up from the threaded end - you can pull the terminals off and snap the filament inside. It'll be more work but you can get a lot more paint in a lightbulb.
 - glass etching solution could be added but I can't vouch for its efficacy. A lot of equipment is plexiglass or some other acrylic plastic. Camera lenses and windscreens on the other hand.
 - glass etching solution is usually either made of ammonium bifluoride or hydrofluoric acid. Both are likely substances that, if identified, could be met with a conviction against of Section 23 or 24 of the Offences Against the Person Act 1861, namely either of the "Maliciously administering poison or noxious substance..." offences.
- Don't get caught.

GUIDE TO PUBLIC ORDER SITUATIONS CONT.



Public Order Act 1986

CHAPTER 64

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

PART I

NEW OFFENCES

Sections

1. Riot.
2. Violent disorder.
3. Affray.
4. Fear or provocation of violence.
5. Harassment, alarm or distress.
6. Intentional harassment, alarm or distress.

BASIC POLICE CHOREOGRAPHY

With any crowd the police will be looking to break it up as soon as possible. Crowd dispersal is achieved with baton charges, horse charges and sometimes CS gas and vehicles. Some particularly nasty or out of control units may pile straight into the crowd, but there is usually a gap between the time they arrive and the start of the dispersal. This stalling time is often just dithering by the commanding officer, or psyching-tooling up time for the troops (the latter is easy to spot). This aside, there are three more reasons why they aren't wading straight in, see if you can spot them next time you're waiting for 'kick-off':

1. They haven't worked out where they're going to disperse you to.
2. They want to gather more evidence/flush out more ring leaders. This involves keeping you right where they can see you and provoking you like hell. They will film you and photograph you and send out snatch squads to pick off individuals.
3. They are waiting for back up because you out number them or are in danger of gaining the upper hand.

However, since Euston Station, November 30th 1999, the police have been using the tactic of coralling people and preventing them from leaving. Section 60 of the Criminal Justice Act 1994 gives police blanket powers to stop and search anyone in a certain area where they 'reasonably suspect' there will be incidents of serious violence. Often this tactic is used to gather information, but you're not obliged to help. They can't read anything of yours (address book, bank cards etc) and you don't have to give a name or address, but they can search you for weapons only. Being held for hours is dispiriting, you can't do much, and the police may push you about and provoke an opportunity to crack a few skulls. This is where the WOMBLES come into their own, you can take a more positive approach and not just wait around until the cops

allow to let you leave. The old bill may also detain people to prevent a breach of the peace where they fear one is imminent. The legality of this is questionable, there will most likely be legal challenges in the near future.

THE DANCE STEPS

OK, so they've stopped fucking around and now it's time to send you home, with a great story to tell your friends (let's face it, they won't see the truth on the news). The bulk of the action is shocking in its predictability. The following will be repeated over and over, in different combinations, until they win or get bored:

1. Officers in lines will pen you in (preferably on the pavement).
2. Officers in lines will push into a crowd to divide it in half.
3. Batons/horses/CS spray attack penned in crowds to lower morale.
4. Charges that slowly push you down a street (rush of cops > > strengthen line > repeat).
5. Crowds throwing missiles will be 'put to flight', as it's harder to throw stuff if you are running.
6. Shift changes. (Often look for the arrival of reinforcements. It is important to try and spot the difference for reasons of morale, and that they are vulnerable during shift changes).

Most of the above require the individual officers to be in tight lines, so it's important to stop those lines forming. Unfortunately we are quite bad at this. The first line drawn is the most crucial and most people don't see it coming. The police will try and form lines right in amongst you if they can, thus weakening your position at the same time as strengthening theirs.

LINE DANCING OR STOPPING LINES FORMING

If the crowd seems volatile, the police will hold right back and the first line drawn will be some distance away. But if you are all hanging around looking confused and passive they will sneak right in amongst you and the first lines will be dividing lines. This is how it works:

The first divide the crowd up into 'actors' and 'viewers'. Small groups of officers will move into the crowd and start politely encouraging the timid ones onto the pavement. Once the crowd starts moving the way they want, those little groups of cops will get bigger and start joining up. Before you know it, there's two crowds on two pavements with two lines of cops penning them in. Let the head cracking commence. Or...

- Don't stand and watch them.
- Don't look like you'll let them get anywhere near you.
- Spot gaps in the crowd and fill them.
- Work out which space they want to take and get there with your mates first.
- Get long tarp banners to the front to stop them advancing and filming.
- Protect your escape routes by standing in them.
- Get those who have turned into spectators off the pavements, back in the crowd and moving around.

Of course, now having resisted being split up and penned in, they may just let fly with the baton charge. But at least you're now in a stronger position to deal with it and escape. Whatever happens next, don't just stand there waiting for it. If you've managed to get their line drawn far away, you've bought valuable time and space – so use it! Even if their line is right up against you, they still haven't broken down your numbers.

However, it's only a matter of time before the police try and get closer/break you up again. Use the time to get out of there slowly and in one block, this is the last thing they want – a large mob moving around freely. Whatever you do, don't stand there waiting for them to try again. You are now in control to go and do whatever you want, so do it. If they have blocked your only exit, try...

COUNTER ADVANCING

This involves moving your lines forward into theirs, thus gaining more space and opening up more exits. Use the front line as a solid wall, linking arms and moving slowly forward. Use the long banner like a snowplough (this stops them grabbing you or breaking the line, they can still hit you with truncheons though). If there's enough of you WOMBLED up, your protective clothing will make that getaway that much safer and easier.

SNOW PLOWS

A line of crowd control barriers can also be carried by the front line like a snowplough to break into the police ranks. The front of the 'plough' can then be opened once their line is breached and the barriers pushed to the side to contain the cops. This all needs a lot of co-ordination and balls, the advantage gained will not last long, so push all your ranks forward through the gap straight away.

USING YOUR BODY

Your body is your best and most adaptable tool. It is best used in concert with others. For instance it could take a long time for twenty to scale a wall, but stand two people against the wall, bowed together with their arms locked and you've got a set of human steps! (Those waiting to climb can link arms around the steps to protect them). Always look for ways to use your body to escape.

RE-FORMING

Keep looking for ways of increasing your numbers, by joining up with other groups and absorbing stragglers. Everyone has to get out and you'll stand a better chance of getting out unharmed, with all your belongings and equipment if you leave together at the same time.

SNATCH SQUADS

When the police want to isolate and arrest an individual in a crowd they will usually employ a snatch squad.

Watch for groups of ten or so fully dressed cops, rallying behind the police lines. They will be instructed by evidence gatherers and a superior (you can often spot them pointing out the person to be snatched). The lines will open temporarily to let the squad through. Half the officers will perform the snatch, the other half will surround them with batons, hitting anyone who gets in the way. Once they have their target he/she is bundled away, back behind police lines.

Try and beat the snatch squad by:

1. Keeping the crowd moving around.
2. Spot the squad preparing.
3. If possible warn the target to get the hell out of the area.
4. Linking arms in an impenetrable wall in the squad's path.
5. Surround the squad once they are in the crowd and intimidate them so much that they panic and give up.
6. If you are being grabbed or pressure pointed, keep your head and arms moving. Don't lash out if you can help it, or you will end up with an assault charge too.

DE-ARRESTING

The best time to do this is as soon as the snatch has happened. You need a group who know how to break grips and some people to act as blockers. Once you've got your person back all link arms and move off into the crowd. The police may try and snatch back or arrest one of the de-arresters.

HA! Closing remarks: Fair fucking play if you're read everything up to now. As we said, surprisingly relevant... However, we feel it to be pertinent to share some potential lessons based on the subsequent 18 years.

1. Surveillance is now even more ubiquitous than it was in the years leading up to this article being written, we have become our own panopticon – thus, the endless suggestion of “leave your phone at home” raises its head. Do not give them the ability to place you at a location based off of phone signal. Do not give them the option to monitor your incoming/outgoing data with a StingRay KingFish device. If you're not able or willing to disconnect yourself entirely, for purposes of organising and coordinating on the fly: take a burner, on a pay-as-you-go SIM, purchased with cash, password protected, containing little more than a solicitors number and a VPN. Cover your face, cover your ears, cover your eyes – there's fear-mongering everywhere that the police can identify you with the smallest facial feature, so cover it all.

2. We are likely to see the UK police learning from the actions of the US police during the George Floyd BLM uprisings in 2020 – namely, that snatching people considered “ring-leaders” in unmarked vans at night is the best method to slow any momentum a movement organisation might be building, as opposed to relying on finding them in a kettle like situation. The ideal solution is to not have any form of leadership, staunchly maintain a horizontal structure within your organisations, nor to be reliant upon any specific persons. The buddy-system can help lessen the chance of a snatching, there's safety in numbers.

3. Similarly, we should be learning from the actions of comrades taking part in insurrections around the world. Hong Kong 2019 gave us a glimpse of what can be accomplished with a unified working class but also, on a macro scale, gave us methods for dealing with tear-gas. For example, covering the canister with a traffic cone and dousing it with water via the hole at the tip, or filling a dry-bag with water and dropping the canister into the bag before sealing and shaking, are suitable attempts to extinguish the charcoal that drives the reaction. The lessons to be learnt from their tracking of police movements and the dispersal of that information to allow crowds to scatter and reform on a new front, alone, are countless.²

4. Back to the underfunding & stagnant techniques the police exercise – their kettles are routinely woefully under-defended from the rear. Often made up of a single line of cops, all facing inwards, with little situational awareness. Why we are unable to coordinate with smaller groups of comrades, outside of the kettle, who could make use of the snowplow and de-arresting techniques described above, who knows.

5. As things continue to worsen, which they will, and the public begin to shirk their miserable indifference, maybe gaining some class consciousness along the way³, the state will eventually find more money for policing. A proportion of this will almost certainly go into improving the quality of training available to forces – likely emulating the Cop City project in the US. We should be mindful of actions and tactics our allies make use of, what works and what doesn't, so we can be ready when they decide the Metropolitan Police Specialist Training Centre, in Gravesend, isn't up to scratch any more.

[illegible]

Artist: Giovanni
100 hours of work

得道者多助

失道者寡助





SMOKED

They say anti-smoking legislation is for our own well-being, but the attack on cigarette smoking does not improve the lives of those it claims to protect, be they the "self-destructive" workers who smoke or the moralizing professionals who complain about having to smell them. Anti-smoking legislation is, and always has been, about social control. It is about ratcheting up worker productivity, fostering class hatred, and forcing the working class out of public life.

Working class people smoke because they do not have the time or money to eat properly, because other, more respectable mind-altering drugs are not available to them, because it is something to enjoy. They do it because their jobs (when they still exist) are boring and physically painful that they would rather die. Yet professionals in the wellness industry routinely describe their smoking social inferiors as "stupid" and "irrational" on the basis of their supposedly self-undermining lifestyle choices.

If the government really cared about working-class smokers' health, our political elites could easily fund our well-paid vacations and other support services by slashing corporate subsidies. Instead, they direct bourgeois unhappiness our way. Instead, they blame the poor for contaminating the world, while funding paramilitary offensives in defense of filthy transnational mining projects and neocolonial oil-and-resource wars. Let the lifestyle lords of the ruling class provide us with the resources required to spend a quarter of our waking hours drinking kale smoothies, doing yoga, and attending trauma therapy just like them. As long as they fail to meet such elementary demands, they deserve much worse than a little second-hand smoke.

Our lives, despite what the boss says, are actually for our own enjoyment, not to make others' lives easier, cleaner, and lazier. As long as the value of professionals' lives is not measured primarily in terms of their effects on others, but according to their pleasure, so shall our own lives and value be measured.

Like them, we shall pursue our own desire for pleasure no matter how whimsical, and if our desire is to smoke, then offended professionals can just hold their breath for once—perhaps using this blessed interval of silence to meditate on their thieving class and its own grotesquely swollen "carbon footprint." If state and capital are going to steal our precious energies and vast hours of our lives to line their pockets with profit, leaving us with poor sleep, insufficient real money, and a diet of cheap sugar as we provide the country with its basic services, the very least we deserve is to enjoy our cigarettes in peace.

If anyone asks, it's not that smoking should be permitted because cigarettes can be proved an absolute good, which they cannot, but simply because for the time-being we happen to smoke them. We might call this giving professionals a taste of their own entitlement.

TO



DICE FOR REST

This piece was created as a gift for a fellow disabled artist and friend at the end of an alternative arts education program called Into The Wild. The dice playfully explores the concept of rest and barriers to it. Some sides highlight how the current capitalist system, with its norms and systems, doesn't enable those who are disabled, sick and neurodivergent to rest in the way they need. While attempting not to replicate toxic wellness culture, which often promotes self-care practices not accessible to many, other sides highlight more practical ways the artist tries to find snippets of rest whilst living with multiple chronic illnesses.

The dice is hand printed on fabric from one of the artist's pillow case.

Please feel free to turn the next page into your own dice.

HACK
THE
DWP

BED

DISMANTLE
CAPITAL
ISM.

MAKE
SOME-
THING
WONKY

SAY NO
(AND DONT
FEEL BAD
ABOUT IT)

CALL
IN
SICK



Hackney Anarchists would like to extend our thanks to the contributors & comrades, both within our own organisation and outside, who helped us put this all together. It is always a joy.

Cover art by Atti.

Words from Mx. Adam Khan, Erica Lagalisse AKA June Thunderstorm, Blackbird Community Project, Blade Runner, a member of the Solidarity Federation & others.

Visuals from Carm, Gertrude, Pyrophite Distro, 謝偉婷, Byron, Sancho R. Somalo, Josh MacPhee, Ruan Murphy, Mir - thank you all.

Continue to look after yourselves, look after your neighbours, your friends, & your community. As the state continues to crumble, and the economic model upon which we are sacrificed attempts to extract even the last drop from us, keep creating new ways of living. From the smallest gesture to the biggest action, let's continue caring for one another, teaching, & learning.

The state does not care for us, we care for us!

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